



RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 48 no 5 June 2013

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc, a nonprofit organisation established in 1885 that promotes the study of geography and encourages a greater understanding and enjoyment of the world around us.

In this issue

- Lecture - Geography of Australia's Housing Market
- Ludwig Leichhardt
- Office Hours
- Walks, Waterfalls and Wine
- Society Staffing
- Vacancy - Executive Officer
- University Prize-Winner
- Gayndah Bridges

From the President

Some time back Society Members paid a visit to the memorial at the site of the *On Our Selection* stories. I was not present on that occasion but have a story to relate.

In 1973 I was working in the Queensland electricity industry when a Mr Eric Davis, a retired bank manager, joined the staff to assist in a special administrative project. Eric Davis was the son of Arthur Hoey Davis, pen name Steele Rudd, author of *On our Selection* and other stories. Eric discussed with me a project he had in mind to bring back part of the original Selection into the Davis family name.

As I was fan of the Steele Rudd stories and understood a little of the local geography of the Darling Downs and the location of the "Rudd" properties, especially "Steele Rudd Corner" on the main Warwick-Toowoomba road, I readily volunteered to carry out the necessary survey. The piece to be excised was the corner of the Selection on which the family "Shingle Hut" had been located.

The Selection is 2 km east of East Greenmount and the Emu Creek State School. This is not to be confused with Steele Rudd Corner where Arthur Hoey Davis lived and farmed after his move from Brisbane subsequent to his journalistic career. This "Corner" and farm is 16 km south of East Greenmount/Emu Creek School.

The original Selection was a block of 168 acres with 8 acres reserved for road. So it conformed with the practice of the time of blocks of 160 acres.

The subdivision survey was especially interesting. The Selection was surveyed in 1870. In 1973, the land was owned by Mr Lipp, a descendant of the Lipp family who feature in the stories and lived on the neighbouring block to the north. The Shingle Hut and all associated sheds and yards had been demolished and the area was part of a cultivated paddock. Walking over the cultivation numerous small pieces of broken crockery, pieces of metal (Davis/Rudd was a blacksmith) and wire were found as evidence of occupation.

A fenced boundary between early holdings, Eton Vale to the west and Pilton on the east, had been adopted as the western boundary of the selection, Portion 359 Parish of Haldon. Features of this fence could be recognised, one hundred years later, by reference to the 1870 survey plan and the original field notes.

The plan and field notes identify the gate in this fence to be on the "Road

from Drayton to Pilton". On the plan and field notes the original fence is identified as a "wire fence".

I was able to identify the gateposts, still standing, although the gate and road (track) was no longer there. Many other features of the original survey could be identified, especially a large dead tree at the south west corner of the selection. The fence was still attached as the tree was the corner. The tree was branded "W" with a broad arrow.

Also of special interest on this survey was locating the water well, 800 m east along the road on a water reserve. This well features in one of the Selection stories. In this story son Dave returns from the well and explains, rather slowly, that he reckoned there was a dead dingo in the well. Dad who had already started to drink the water became most agitated. The well was still in good condition in 1973 and the position has been recorded on my survey plan. The well was quite deep and formed up with timber slabs.

Patron: H.E. Ms P Wensley AC,
Governor of Queensland
President: Mr David Carstens

The Royal Geographical Society
of Queensland Inc
237 Milton Road
Milton Qld 4064

Tel: (07) 3368 2066
Fax: (07) 3367 1011
Email: admin@rgsq.org.au
Web: www.rgsq.org.au

Subsequent to my survey the well has been filled in by the local council.

The memorial site excised is 1795m² (0.4 acres) and Eric Davis has arranged the replica hut which now stands there. I went back to the memorial site some time ago but after forty years it must be due for another visit.

The May Lecture concerned with Global Food Security by Dr Graham Bonnett was well received by an auditorium filled by members and a significant number of the public. The lecture was given publicity on the ABC Radio by Spencer Howson.

It was pleasing, once again, to welcome Society Patron Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, and her husband Mr Stuart McCosker who joined the audience for this lecture, recognising special interest in the topic.

The review of the Society is progressing. Interesting and constructive commentary has been generated within Council and from Committees and Membership. The immediate action is reflected in this *Bulletin* in the form of an advertisement to recruit additional staff to satisfy future needs especially noting the retirement of Keith Smith and long term planning by Kath Berg for future retirement.

David Carstens

Lecture – Geography of Australia's Housing Market

The June lecture will be presented by Mr Cameron Kusher on the topic: *The Geography of Australia's Housing Market*. Cameron is replacing Tim Lawless who unfortunately can no longer deliver the June lecture.

Cameron Kusher is senior research analyst with RP Data. The company is the biggest provider of property information, analytics and risk management services in Australia and New Zealand. Its customers range from real estate agents and consumers to banks and governments. Cameron, who has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Property Economics) from QUT, is

responsible for the majority of the day-to-day outputs of the RP Data research division, working closely with research director Tim Lawless. Cameron specialises in primary and secondary data analysis, property market commentary and consultancy. His expertise includes fundamentals such as demographics, trends, economics and spatial analysis.

Cameron reports on property market conditions and activity for myriad media networks, writes several columns in key newspapers and magazines, and presents regularly to property-related groups, regulated industry bodies, corporations and the government sectors.

Cameron will speak on the geography of Australia's housing markets: what are the geographic trends of dwelling values around the nation, and how have values changed over time. Trends examined will include:

- the differences in price and performance across Australia's capital cities
- the rise of mining towns on the back of the resources boom
- how the GFC has impacted on lifestyle markets such as the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Tweed Coast and Far North Queensland
- where Australia's most expensive and most affordable housing markets are located.

Ludwig Leichhardt

Queensland Museum is collating information/evidence concerning Ludwig Leichhardt to commemorate Leichhardt's Port Essington expedition. If any members have knowledge of or access to items or articles relating to Leichhardt please contact Council Member Neal O'Connor – mobile 0457 849 737; noconnor@worldoptions.com.au.

Office Hours

Kath Berg will be on leave from 11 to 21 June. Hayley Freemantle will staff the office every day, but it may be open later and shut earlier. It would be wise to ring before visiting.

Walks, Waterfalls and Wine

What: a long weekend of adventure, exercise and good company at the Blackall Range

When: 8 - 10 June 2013

Cost: \$10 for weekend including a wine-tasting, or \$20 for weekend, wine-tasting and group dinner (see below). Note this **excludes** accommodation which is to be booked directly (see below).

Book: with the office, pay by 4 June
Bring: warm gear as temperatures range from 11° to 21° in June, walking shoes, water bottle, picnic lunch for Saturday.

Meet: at the Little Rocky Creek Aboriginal site on Old Gympie Rd by 10:15 am Sat. It's about 2 km south of Landsborough.

If enough people are interested, we will arrange a group dinner on Sunday night – soup, a hot main course and cake, with BYO liquid refreshments.

Book your own accommodation at Lilyponds Holiday Park, 26 Warruga Street, Mapleton. For bookings, ph 1800 003 764; for information, ph 5445 7238; relax@lilyponds.com.au; www.lilyponds.com.au. Cabins and tent and caravan sites are available. **Book NOW** as this is a long weekend. NOTE, because it is a long weekend, there is a minimum 3 night booking (Fri - Sun or Sat - Mon).

Activities

- visit an Aboriginal site, and view and photograph grinding grooves used by the Gubbi Gubbi people
- enjoy wine tasting
- visit and enjoy your own picnic lunch at Gardner's Falls
- visit Baroon Pocket Dam
- many walks in National Parks are possible, varying in distance and challenge, from short to longer walks and easy to challenging
- heritage walks are available in Montville and Mapleton
- art galleries, craft and souvenir shops, eateries and retail therapy
- visit the cheese factory in Kenilworth, near the Maleny turnoff

Map and details on our website: www.rgsq.org.au, or hard copies are available from the office.

Join us on the adventure.

New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming as new members:

K Hesketh; Janelle Stewart

We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Vale

Sincere condolences on the death of Ruth Jones to Howard and his family. Ruth was one of the hard-working band of volunteers at the Society's Craven's Peak Scientific Study.

Many members would also remember Pat Christie, a Society member for many years although not so at the time of her death. Pat passed away earlier this year while overseas.

Society Staffing

When the Society's long-term Business Manager Keith Smith retired last year, Council advertised a new staff position with the intention that the appointee, if suitable, might in time take over from the Society's current Administrator, Kath Berg. For various reasons, Council decided it would be better not to proceed with that action at that time.

As David mentioned in his President's message, Council has again discussed the staffing situation as part of its broad review. It has decided to advertise for an Executive Officer to commence employment next year. (Kath advised that she had always disliked her title of Administrator, so the position has been re-named Executive Officer.)

Kath won't be retiring until mid-2014 but an overlap of some months is envisaged, not just as a hand-over period, but to have the time to work on a special project related to the possible expansion of the Australian Geography Competition.

Council had intended to advertise this position later in the year but the absence of key members of the Society's Council, sequentially rather than consecutively, has brought forward this plan.

Vacancy – Executive Officer

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland is seeking an Executive Officer to lead the Society's promotion of geography, and to manage the Society under the direction of its Council.

Criteria

The successful applicant will desirably have:

- a passionate commitment to promoting geography
- a geography degree or equivalent
- experience in teaching geography in secondary and/or primary schools
- high-level organisational ability
- advanced communication skills, including writing and editing
- experience using a range of computer applications
- demonstrated initiative
- ability to work independently or in a small team

Key responsibilities

Education

- manage the Australian Geography Competition and its related events
- prepare submissions on school geography curricula
- undertake tasks related to advocacy for geography

Communications

- manage the Society's communications, e.g. newsletter, website, facebook page
- produce/edit other publications as needed

Major projects

- develop and manage major Society initiatives promoting geography

Administrative

- supervise maintenance of records and databases
- organise lectures and occasional other events
- support the work of the Council

An appropriate salary and starting date in 2014 will be negotiated. The successful applicant will report to the Society's Secretary. Enquiries to secretary@rgsq.org.au.

Applications should be emailed to secretary@rgsq.org.au **by 17 June 2013**.

University Prize-Winner

I am writing in appreciation as recipient of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland's Academic Award. Thank you for the honour and the acknowledgement on my academic achievements.

I have enjoyed my chosen field of study – Geography and History, and as I continue to study a Graduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching in the hope to qualify as a Secondary Teacher, I know that all the hard work will pay off in the end, and this award is testament to that.

As a mature-aged student with four children aged between 8 and 14, this award also is an acknowledgment of what can be achieved regardless of how busy life can be. This award has increased my motivation for success and also inspired our 14 year old daughter, and for that I am grateful. I must also acknowledge the love and support of my husband and children as I continue my educational journey, for they also motivate me and are my "Rock".

Unfortunately, due to my study commitments, embedded professional practical placement, and the distance I live from CQ University Campuses, my family and I are unable to attend the ceremony to receive this award in person, however, we will celebrate this achievements and I thank you for your commitment to the development of Geography students at CQ University.

Kerrie Corcoran

Thank You

Many thanks to the members who sorted and sent back the results of the Australian Geography Competition to the 725 schools that entered:

Helen Bismire, Mary Comer, Roger Grimley, James Hansen, Margaret Hardy, Maureen Meier, John and Mary Nowill, Chris Spriggs

Thanks as well to the members who were on standby for the Thursday in case we hadn't finished.

Gayndah Bridges

I have received a letter from John Mellor at Gayndah who generously shared his time to show Kay and I all of the historic railway bridges around Gayndah. A number of RGSQ members subsequently visited Gayndah to view these bridges as well as the local notable museum.

John Mellor writes that two of these railway bridges have been extensively damaged during the floods in early March. Reids Creek bridge has been completely washed away and the bridge over the Burnett River at Mt Lawless has received major damage with a large central section washed away.

As well the museum has been "wrecked and a lot of records lost".

Graham Rees

Canning Stock Route

Queensland Museum (Southbank) is hosting an exhibition which many members may find interesting. It runs from 25 May to 14 July, and entry costs \$10.

Explore the richness of desert life in this beautiful exhibition from the National Museum of Australia and immerse yourself in the story of the Canning Stock Route, the world's longest historical stock route.

Yiwarra Kuju: The Canning Stock Route tells the story of the Canning Stock Route's impact on Aboriginal people and the importance of the Country that surrounds it through the works of senior and emerging artists and the stories of traditional custodians.

In 2008 the National Museum of Australia acquired the extensive collection of works now known as the Canning Stock Route collection – a relatively humble name for a collection of such national significance. This exhibition showcases these works and reveals the richness of desert life today. [The art looks quite stunning on the website - Kath.]

RGSQ Bulletin

June 2013

Lecture, Tues 4 June, 7.30pm
Speaker: Mr Cameron Kusher
Subject: The Geography of Australia's
Housing Market

Long Weekend Trek, 8 - 10 June
Where: Blackall Range

Lecture, Tues 2 July, 7.30pm
Speaker: Mr Carl Robinson
Subject: Mongolia: Nomad Empire of
Eternal Blue Sky

Day Trek, Tues 28 July
What: Tour of Light Horse Museum
Where: Mudgeeraba

Lecture, Tues 6 August, 7.30pm
Speaker: Dr John Kirkwood
Subject: Visiting Antarctica? Is Ecotourism
Compatible with Wilderness Preservation

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc
237 Milton Road, Milton Q 4064

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA